

LIST OF CLAIMS, SHOWING THE STATUS OF EACH CLAIM

Underlining denotes added text while strikethrough denotes deleted text.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A protease variant comprising an amino acid sequence having a substitution at ~~one or more residue positions~~ the residue position equivalent to residue position 26 of *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* subtilisin as set forth in SEQ ID No. ~~NO:2~~, wherein said substitution comprises V26T or V26S.
2. (Currently Amended) The protease variant of claim 1, wherein said variant includes at least one improved property selected from a) wash performance and b) stability as compared to SEQ ID No. ~~NO:2~~.
3. (Currently Amended) The protease variant of ~~claim~~ Claim1, wherein said ~~variant~~ has improved stability, wherein said stability is improved thermostability, wherein said protease variant exhibits improved thermostability as compared to the subtilisin set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
4. (Currently Amended) The protease variant of claim ~~31~~, wherein said variant further comprises a substitution at a position equivalent to 218, wherein said substitution is N218S ~~7, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31, 73, 85, 88, 90, 93, 139, 148, 149, 150, 178, 231, 233, 267 and 273.~~
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The protease variant of ~~claim~~ Claim 1, wherein said variant has improved wash performance at about 40 degrees centigrade, at a protease concentration of 0.3-0.5 ppm protease and at water hardness conditions of about 15 grains per gallon mixed $\text{Ca}^{2+}/\text{Mg}^{2+}$ hardness, as compared to the *B. amyloliquefaciens* subtilisin set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

10. (Currently Amended) The protease variant of claim 9, wherein said variant further comprises a substitution at the position ~~one or more positions~~ equivalent to 218, wherein said substitution comprises N218S ~~31, 69, 82, 148, 201, 203, 231, 233, 258, 267 and 270~~ of *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* subtilisin.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) A DNA encoding a protease variant of claim 1.

16. (Original) An expression vector encoding the DNA of claim 15.

17. (Original) A host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 16.

18. (Original) A cleaning composition comprising the protease variant of claim 1.